

Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology **Continuing Professional Development Update**

The **final regulations** regarding the requirements for continuing professional development for licensed speech-language pathologists and audiologists have been adopted by the State of California. These regulations replace the emergency regulations outlined in the initial continuing professional development flyer that was sent to licensees in April. The requirements for continuing professional development are outlined below. Additions to the language in the original version of the regulations are shown in *italics*. The requirement for obtaining continuing professional development courses applies to any license that expires after January 1, 2001.



- ⇒ *Twelve (12) hours of continuing professional development is required for those licensees whose license expires in 2001. (One clock "hour" of continuing professional development corresponds to 60 minutes of instruction.)*
- ⇒ Twenty-four (24) hours of continuing professional development courses within each two-year license renewal period.
- ⇒ *A person holding both a speech-language pathology license and an audiology license will be required to obtain eight (8) hours of continuing professional development courses for each license that expires in the year 2001 (a total of sixteen (16) hours). For licenses that expire in 2002 or later, the licensee must complete sixteen (16) hours of continuing professional development for each license (a total of thirty-two (32) hours).*
- ⇒ A licensee shall only be credited with continuing professional development hours if he or she takes a course from a board-approved provider with a valid, current approval as a provider. The regulations do not allow for retroactive credit for courses taken prior to the adoption of the regulations, or prior to approval of the provider. **(Changes to this provision are outlined on the back side of the this update under the section referencing Assembly Bill 124.)**
- ⇒ A portion of the hours obtained for the continuing professional development may be obtained through self-study. *For licensees whose license expires in the year 2001, four (4) hours of the twelve (12) hour requirement may be obtained through self-study. A licensee who holds both a speech-language pathology and an audiology license whose license expires in 2001, may accrue two (2) hours of the eight (8) hour requirement through self-study for each license.*

Of the twenty-four (24) hours of continuing professional development, eight (8) hours may be obtained through self-study. *A licensee who holds both a speech-language pathology and an audiology license may accrue up to five (5) hours of the sixteen (16) hour requirement through self-study for each license.*

- ⇒ “Self-study” is defined as a form of systematic learning that is performed at a licensee’s residence, office, or other private location, and includes, but is not limited to, viewing of videotapes, listening to audiotapes, or participating in “self-assessment testing” (open-book tests that are completed by the licensee, submitted to the provider, graded and returned to the licensee with correct answers and an explanation of why the answer chosen by the provider was the correct answer). An approved provider must offer the self-study course; experiences such as self-directed readings, for example, will not count. The bulk of continuing professional development is expected to be in the form of academic studies, extension studies, conferences, seminars and workshops offered, again, by approved providers. *A self-study course does not mean a course taken at an accredited university towards a degree.*
- ⇒ Continuing professional development course content must be relevant to the profession of the license held by the individual and should also be related to direct or indirect patient care.
- ⇒ A licensee shall maintain records of course completion for a period of at least two (2) years from the date of license renewal for which the course was completed.
- ⇒ A licensee may request that his or her license be placed on inactive status. The licensee shall pay the full renewal fee to renew the license, but shall be exempt from completing the continuing professional development requirements. Licensees holding an inactive license shall not engage in the practice of speech-language pathology or audiology. In order to restore an inactive license to active status, the licensee must pay the renewal fee and complete the continuing professional development requirement for a single renewal period.

On September 21, 1999, Governor Davis signed Assembly Bill 124 into law. This law is effective **January 1, 2000** and includes changes to the current continuing professional development law. The new law includes the following:

- For licenses that expire in 2001, the licensee must accrue the applicable continuing professional development hours after April 12, 1999 and prior to the license renewal date in 2001.
- Continuing professional development hours may be obtained from institutions of higher learning, organizations approved as continuing education providers by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, the American Academy of Audiology, the California Medical Association’s Institute for Medical Quality Continuing Medical Education Program, or other organizations approved by the board as continuing professional development providers.